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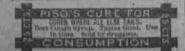
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ABOUT GIBRALTAR.

DENIED THAT IT IS AN IMPREG-NABLE FORTRESS.

French Critics Deciare the World at Large Will No Louger Regard Gibrattur as the Stronghold the English Claim It to Be.

French technical journals like the Revue d'Armee et de Marine and others are expressing the views that Gib-raltar is not such a formidable defense of British interests on the shortest road to India as is usually believed. The Revue d'Armee et de Marine has just given a detailed history of the works undertaken by Great Britain at Gfbraitar since 1895. The Tour de Gibraltar since 1895. The Tour de Monde and other journals, also, are having much to say on the subject. Their criticisms are based in part upon the pamphlet which Mr. Gibson Bowles printed a wille ago under the title, "Gibraitar, a National Danger." in which he maintains that the prevuling faith in the impregnability of the famous rock is a delusion. The French writers declare that there is nothing new in this view. They quote older British authorities in support of this idea, among them Gen. Courington, formerly governor of Gibraltar, who maintained that the place was noth-ing but a scarecrow to frighten people who did not know the real facts about it. The French journals say that the works begun by the British govern-ment in 1895 are to be completed in ment in 1895 are to be completed in 1905 and 1906. They consist of a large torpedo station, a great dry dock and two new piers, all strongly fortified. The critics declare that the particularly weak point in the enterprise is that all these works are to be wrected on the west side of Gibraltar, and now, when nearly \$6.000.000 have been exwhen nearly \$6,000,000 have been ex-pended, experts come forward and declare that it is most unwise to build the improvements on the west side of Gibraltar. They say the works will be exposed there to a ruinous fire from Spanish batteries on the opposite side of Algedras bay, about four miles dis-tant, should Spain take it into her head to creet batteries on her side of the coast. The fact is that the Spanish have already studied the question of batteries and other military works near Gibraltar. A part of their army is now kept in the neighborhood and a now kept in the neighborhood and a series of fortifications has been reared all around the north and west side of Gibraltar. The works extend from the Sierra Carbonara, which is just north if the neutril sirp separating the rock from the Spanish territory north of it, all along the shore of the bay to, the

the west, terminating at Carners Point, which ends the shore line on the west side of the bay. The author of this Spanish military idea is Major Garcia Roure, who estimates that 70 pieces of large caliber placed at equal intervals along one-third of this line might at one and the same time direct their projectiles on Gibraltar from a distance of 7,300 to 9,000 meters, and could easily reduce the works now building and also the much vaunted fortress. Mr. Bowles obtained the plans of these projected Spanish works which he published to the world with the warning that no military authority could advise the carrying out of the undertaking already far advanced on the west side of the fortress. In his opinion the British should be content to lose the money they have put into these uncompleted structures and should begin the work all over again should begin the work all over again on the east side of Gibraltar. There would certainly be little or no danger from the fire of Spanish batteries on the east side of the rock, but unfortunately for Mr. Bowles' proposition the rock on that side is almost precip-

itous, and the base of it is not well adapted for the carrying out of the desired improvements. Although the sired improvements. Although the French critics declare that the trans-ference of the work to the east side seems almost impracticable, a British commission appointed to investigate DOLL
ofothes will
the matter has agreed with Mr. Bowles'
view and submitted a plun for constructing the works on the east side.
If remains to be seen whether the plan is really feasible. In any event, the French critics declare, the world at large will no longer regard Gibraltar as the impregnable fortress of inestimable importance to British interests which the English jingoes have always held

> A Leper Fgund in St. Louis.
>
> Application has been made from St.
>
> Louis for the admission to the Louisiana Lepers' Hume of Dong Gong, a laundryman of that city, recently dis-covered to be a leper. The St. Louis covered to be a leper. The St. Loui authorities declare that there is no hos pital or home in Missouri, nor indeed any other in the country save in Louis iana, to which lepers can be sent, and it was proposed that Louisiana accept the Chinaman. Albert G. Phelps, presthe Contained Arter to Placing president of the Board of Control of the Lepers Home, said that the offer could not be accepted. The board frequently received proposition of this kind from various states, but had declined then

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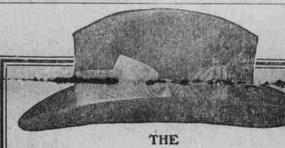
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